

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00564 010926Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /022 W
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R 010816Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7435

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0564

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BG
SUBJ: CHANGES IN BANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTRY

REF: DACCA 1237

1. MAHBUBUL HAQ, BANGLADESH EMBASSY COUNSELOR IN ABU DHABI SINCE JUNE 15, 1976, DEPARTED FEBRUARY 2, 1978 ON TRANSFER TO DACCA. AT FAREWELL RECEPTION NIGHT PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE HAQ INFORMED EMBOFF THAT HE EXPECTED TO BE GIVEN A "DESK" IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHICH ONE.

2. HAQ IS EXPERIENCED DIPLOMATE WITH 13 YEARS EXPERIENCE, FIRST IN PAKISTANI FOREIGN SERVICE DURING WHICH HE HELD ASSIGNMENTS IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE, INCLUDING CANADA AND ARGENTINA. HE WAS ASSIGNED TO PAK EMBASSY TEHRAN WHEN CIVIL WAR CAME. HE RETURNED TO DACCA FEW MONTHS AFTER INDEPENDENCE AND SERVED BRIEFLY IN FOREIGN MINISTRY BEFORE BEING SENT TO BUENOS AIRES TO OPEN FIRST BENGALI MISSION THERE. HE SERVED IN MOSCOW 1974-76 BEFORE TRANSFERRING TO ABU DHABI.

3. EMBASSY DID NOT HAVE EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH HAQ BUT OUR ENCOUNTERS WERE ALWAYS FRIENDLY WITH HAQ OFTEN INITIATING CONVERSATION. HE HAS VISITED (PERHAPS SERVED IN) U.S. AND SEEMS TO LIKE AMERICANS. HE IMPRESSED US AS OPEN, TALKATIVE, AND
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LIKEABLE BUT ALSO AS SOMEWHAT SUPERFICIAL AND MILDLY CYNICAL. MUCH OF HAQ'S TIME WAS DEVOTED TO SETTING UP THE EMBASSY PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF FIRST RESIDENT AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH AT END OF 1976. HE ALSO DEVOTED GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT TO THE MANY LABOR AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF LARGE BENGALI WORKER FORCE (AT LEAST 30,000) IN UAE.

4. HAQ SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. MRS. HAQ ALSO SPEAKS
ENGLISH BUT WE ARE UNSURE HOW WELL. THE HAQS HAVE NO
CHILDREN.
DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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